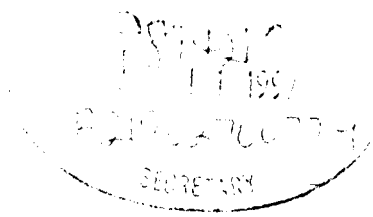


Edward O'Brien
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August 11 1997

Federal Trade Commission
Washington DC

Dear Commissioner

I writing to you, to voice my opposition to [the Commissions recommendation] to change the current standard of what "Made in the USA" means. As a consumer, I always look for the Made in the USA label. I do so for the following reasons

Individual freedom - I believe true free trade can only exist with countries where each individual citizen is free to make to a purchasing decision. As Patrick Henry said in September of 1774, "Perfect freedom is as necessary to the health and vigor of commerce as it is to the health and vigor of citizenship." For example if I can not find a product made in the USA, I would prefer to buy a product made in Canada, over a product made in China.

2 Republican Democracy or Communism It can be cheaper to produce goods in Communist China over the United States simply because our form of government with our judicial system and representative system costs money. The costs of the courts and elections are paid for by the American Taxpayers, Because of these costs the Americans need higher wages. Citizens from Countries without Courts and Elections are at a competitive advantage. By purchasing goods made in the USA, I am showing preference to countries that have a court system and elections.

3. Technology over poverty wages - There are at least two ways to produce goods cheaper. A manufacturer can find a better way to produce goods through technology or it can take advantage of the billion or so impoverished workers around the world, I prefer the manufactures that use technology, rather than abuse workers. By purchasing goods made in USA, I have the assurance that at least certain standards are being met.

In short, I do not believe that Communism and Poverty should be considered a national competitive advantage. I am asking the current standard for "Made in the USA" be maintained, so that American Citizens are free to make their own minds up on issues of trade. Please do not water down the current standard for "Made in USA". The formula proposed by the FTC, should not replace commonsense.

Sincerely,

Edward G. O'Brien

EOB